



King County Executive
RON SIMS

December 3, 2001

Jeff Koenings, Director
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North
Olympia, WA 98501-1091

Dear Mr. Koenings:

Thank you for the invitation to become a member of the Executive Committee for the anticipated General Investigation (GI) study of the Puget Sound nearshore. I am happy to accept the invitation and can confirm my interest in becoming a member of the group. I am optimistic that this project will capably fill critical gaps in our knowledge of the Puget Sound basin and help set the context for the protection and restoration of the approximately 100 miles of Puget Sound shoreline in King County.

King County has a history of working to better understand the health and condition of our nearshore and estuarine areas and using that understanding to take action:

- Several years ago King County was instrumental in forming the Central Puget Sound Forum with local jurisdictions bordering the Puget Sound and then fostered its growth into an integral part of salmon conservation planning in the Lake Washington and Green/Duwamish Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs).
- King County is the WRIA planning lead entity for WRIAs 8 and 9 and in that capacity has identified both information and conservation needs associated with the nearshore and has helped those WRIAs begin to address those needs.
- Earlier this year King County, with important contributions from multiple public and private entities, produced the *State of the Nearshore Report* for central Puget Sound. This is a first-of-its-kind report summarizing what we know about central Puget Sound nearshore habitat conditions and the health of a range of species that rely on the nearshore habitat in the region, including salmon.

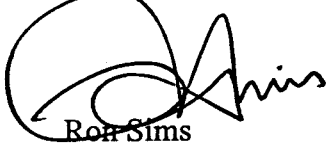
This emphasis on catalyzing and coordinating efforts in the King County nearshore area has already improved our understanding, spurred action, and put King County and the central Puget Sound in a position to help move the GI study in a productive direction. There remains, however, much work to be done.

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Thank you again for this invitation. I look forward to the initiation of the GI study and to the realization of its benefits for the health of the Puget Sound nearshore ecosystem and the species within it. Please send materials about future meetings of the Executive Committee, and other elements of this project, to me and to the three people from King County listed on the enclosed mailing list.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Sims", with a large, stylized initial "R" and a trailing flourish.

Ron Sims
King County Executive

RS:ks

Enclosure

cc: Tim Smith, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
Tim Ceis, Chief of Staff, King County Executive Office
Pam Bissonnette, Director, Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Daryl Grigsby, Manager, Water and Land Resources Division, DNR